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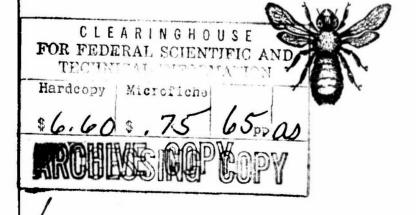
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Operating under Contract NOrd 7386 With the Bureau of Ordnance, U. S. Navy

A SUMMARY OF THE STATUS OF RESEARCH ON THE MECHANISM OF COMBUSTION

Prepared by Arthur D. Little, Inc.



JUL 11 1966

Bumblebee Series
Report No. 47
Copy No. 207

October 1946

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THE JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY
APPLIED PHYSICS LABORATORY
8621 Georgia Avenue
Silver Spring, Maryland

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A SUMMARY OF THE STATUS OF RESEARCH
ON THE MECHANISM OF COMBUSTION

prepared by

Arthur D. Little, Incorporated

This report is one part of a SURVEY OF THE LITERATURE ON COMBUSTION prepared by Arthur D. Little, Inc., for the Applied Physics Laboratory, The Johns Hopkins University. The Survey was conducted and the report written under the direction of Dr. W. H. Avery.

October 1946

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FOREWORD

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Nature and Scope of

"SURVEY OF THE LITERATURE ON COMBUSTION"
as prepared by Arthur D. Little, Incorporated, for the Applied Physics Laboratory, The Johns Hopkins University.

I. Description of Project

A. Task Statement - "to provide a survey of information available on chemical reactions which may be of interest for rocket and ram-jet propulsion systems; information is particularly desired on studies leading to the elucidation of mechanisms of gas-phase oxidation reactions, including investigations of the initiation of reaction, explosion limits, flame propagation and stability, nature of reaction intermediates, and of accelerating and inhibiting agents."

B. Problem Statements

- 1. Experimental Methods "to consist in the preparation of a report dealing with experimental methods which have been developed for the elucidation of reaction mechanisms; report should include a description of each method, nature of the information obtained, critical evaluation, references and suggested methods of applying new experimental techniques."
- 2. Reaction Studies "to consist in the preparation of a card index giving.
 - a. Chemical oxidation reactions on which significant data are available for the problems outlined in the task statement; each reference should include conditions of pressure, temperature and flow, nature of measurements, and summary of results.
 - b. Short abstracts of the more significant papers in the field covered by the task statement.
 - c. Short abstracts of all publications dealing with reactions which have been applied in the propulsion of rockets and ram-jets."

3. Summary of Status - "to consist in preparation of a report which summarizes briefly the material examined under Problem 2 above, showing the state of present knowledge with regard to the various aspects of the study of gas-phase oxidation reactions."

II. Scope and Preparation Procedure

- A. Classified Material the successful accomplishment of the task as outlined above required a review of both unclassified and classified information because most of the work on combustion carried out during the war - both here and abroad - was of a classified nature. Unfortunately no complete index of such material had been made nor had all of the pertinent classified reports, which numbered several thousand, been collected in a single agency. Consequently, with minor exceptions, within the time and funds at the task's disposal it was possible only to determine the sources of classified material and to indicate what general information was available from each. A description of these sources and a resume of the information obtained has been submitted as a separate part of the report to APL/JHU. Index cards were prepared for the few pertinent classified references which were disclosed in the investigation of these sources; in addition index cards and abstracts were prepared of the classified reports pertinent to this task which are located in the files of the Chemical Engineering Department of Massachusetts Institute of Technology. One copy of the classified abstracts and a set of all classified index cards are located at APL/JHU.
- B. Unclassified Material Review of unclassified material was carried out as follows:
 - 1. Index cards carrying short abstracts were prepared for all references (approximately 3000) listed in CHEMICAL AESTRACTS under the headings given below for the period beginning with 1936 (Volume 30) and running through August 1 1946. (Earlier work was not abstracted because of the existence of excellent summaries of combustion research, prior to 1936, by Jost, von Elbe & Lewis, and others). Subject headings abstracted were:

Calorific Value	Heat of Combustion	Oxygen
Combustibility	Hydrocarbon Oils	Ozone
Combustibles	Hydrocarbons	Para magnetism
Combustion	Igniters	Photochemistry
Decomposition	Ignition	Projectiles
Detonation	Inflammability	Promoters
Explosibility	Inhibitors	Reaction Kinetics
Explosions	Isotopes	Reactions

Explosives Flames Flash Point Free Radicals (Detection of) Fuels Heat of Activation

Jet Propulsion Mass Spectrograph

Mirrors

Molecular Beams Ortho & para hydrogen

Oxidation

Rockets Sound Spectroscopy Thermal conductivity Thermodynamic properties Thermodynamics

Turbines

2. On the basis of the short abstracts on the index cards, the references were divided in terms of relative importance into A, B, C and D groups. Articles rated A were judged to be of first importance to the general understanding of the mechanism and phenomena of combustion. Those grouped under B were judged to be either of less general excellence or more limited pertinence; 2 references were thought to have significance such that they would be worthy of consideration only in a thorough study of some phase of combustion research; the D group comprised references believed to be relevant only to special or derivative phases of combustion research.

- 3. After the references had been grouped as indicated above, abstracts of the A and B items as given in CHEMICAL AB-STRACTS were reviewed. If the importance of any given article seemed to warrant a more complete treatment than appeared in this publication, the Centralblatt reference was consulted. If neither appeared adequate the original article was studied and a more thorough review prepared.
- 4. Typed copies were prepared of all & and B abstracts plus those from CHEMICAL ABSTRACTS of the C articles which were not reviewed before being copied. Although these abstracts numbering some 2,000 were not requested in the task statement, it was felt that they would add greatly to the value of the survey. They, along with the card index are on file at APL/JHU.
- 5. With the A and B references as a basis, supplemented by the reading of selected references in whole or in part, the summary reports requested in Problems 1 and 3 were prepared.

III. Distribution of Results of the Survey

- A. Problem 1 Summary report has been issued by APL/JHU as Section T Memorandum CM-366, dated October 1946.
- B. Problem 2 The card index and abstracts described above are located at APL/JHU where they can be consulted by anyone visiting the laboratory.
- C. Problem 3 Summary report is presented herewith as BUMBLE-BEE Report No. 47, dated October 1946.

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A SUMMARY OF THE STATUS OF RESEARCH

ON THE

MECHANISM OF COMBUSTION

A. Introduction.

In the preparation of this summary approximately 3000 papers, reports, and patents have been reviewed. Of these, roughly 800 were found to be of sufficient importance to merit further consideration. Unfortunately, because of time limitations, it has not been possible to read all of the pertinent papers. However, abstracts of these papers have been read and those papers, which from their abstracts seemed to be of primary importance, have been used as a basis for the preparation of this summary. Since the primary emphasis of this review has been placed on mechanism of reaction, detailed discussion of empirical phenomena is omitted. An attempt is made, however, to indicate sources of material, to aid the reader, interested in any special topic, to find the published reports on that topic. All compounds listed in Chemical Abstracts as promoters or inhibitors of reaction have been incorporated in the card index supplied with the report. No further explicit reference is made to them in this summary.

B. Fundamental Considerations.

Through the work of a large number of investigators, among whom Nernat, Bodenstein, Bonhoeffer, Polanyi, Rice, Eyring and Semenov may be mentioned particularly, the fundamental principles underlying the phenomena of gaseous oxidation reactions are rather well understood. Very briefly the salient features of the theory may be summarized as follows:

Reaction between two molecular species, such as H2 and O2, proceeds through a series of bimolecular or, occasionally, termolecular collisions of molecules or atoms until final products are formed which are stable under the given experimental conditions. Usually reaction between two molecules or atoms does not take place unless the particles possess energy considerably in excess of the mean equilibrium thermal energy for the given temperature, i.e., an activation energy is required for reaction to take place. This is true even though energy is liberated in the reaction, i.e., internal energy is converted to translational, rotational, vibrational, electronic energy or radiation.*

In addition to fulfilling the energy requirement, the colliding molecules must also be properly oriented if they are to react. Thus,

^{*} Although accurate values of the activation energy cannot usually be calculated, it is possible from thermodynamics to set lower limits to these values. Thus, the activation energy for an endothermic elementary reaction cannot be significantly less than the energy absorbed in the process.

the expression for the reaction rate includes a factor giving the collision probability of the two species which may be interpreted as representing the probability that the two colliding particles will possess sufficient energy to react, and finally, a steric factor representing the probability that the orientation requirements will be fulfilled. The first term will depend on the concentrations of the reacting particles, on their dimensions and on the forces of attraction or repulsion which act between them. The general expression for the rate will have, then, the following form:

Rate = Z s f (T) g ([reactants])

in which Z is the number of collisions in unit volume, in unit time, s is the steric factor,

f (T) is an undetermined function of the temperature,
g ([reactants]) is an undetermined function of the concentration of reactants, products and additives.

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For a particular system reacting at constant temperature,

Rate = K g ([reactants]).

The constant K is called the rate constant of the reaction.

To an approximation sufficiently close for most purposes, the product (at constant pressure) of Z and s may be considered proportional to the square root of the temperature and equated to $AT^{1/2}$ where A is a constant, and f(T) may be replaced by $e^{-E/RT}$, in which E is the activation energy (equal to the difference between the energy required for reaction of the given particles, and their average thermal energy, and R is the gas constant. With these substitutions,

$$K = AT1/2 e^{-E/RT}$$

An understanding of the mechanism of a reaction, for our purposes, will be taken to mean the ability to estimate quantitatively the effects on the reaction of changes in temperature, concentration of reactants, nature and dimensions of the reaction chamber, and presence of additives. Both the rate of the reaction and the nature and amounts of products formed may be affected by these changes.

Investigations of a wide variety of chemical reactions have shown that only in rare instances can the mechanism of a reaction be understood without the postulation of one or more intermediate steps between the initial reaction and the formation of final products. This follows from the fact that the lowest energy process that can occur during the collision of two molecules is ordinarily one that involves the breaking of only a single bond. Thus reaction between molecules is most likely to occur by separate steps, involving first, dissociation of the least tightly bound molecule, followed by reaction of atoms or radicals so formed with other molecules. The

radicals or atoms produced in this step react further, the process finally being stopped by the reactants being consumed or the intermediates being neutralized by chain breaking reactions in the gas phase or adsorption on the container walls.

One of the simplest examples of reactions of this type is that between H₂ and bromine. The reaction involves the following steps:

- (1) $Br_2 \longrightarrow 2 Br 45.2 Kcal$
- (2) Br + H = HBr + H 16.4 Kcal
- (3) $H + Br_2 = HBr + Br 40.5$ Kcal
- (4) $Br + Br + M = Br_2 + M + 45.2$ Kcal

Inspection of the above scheme shows that steps (2) and (3) constitute a cycle or chain in which the active hydrogen and bromine atoms are regenerated, while two molecules of HBr are formed. Thus, if other considerations did not prevent it, all of the H₂ and Br₂ could react by the continued repetition of steps (2) and (3) once reaction (1) had furnished an initial bromine atom.

Two factors prevent ramification of the chains in this reaction. First, reaction (2) requires an activation energy of something over 16 Kcal so that only unusually energetic bromine atoms or hydrogen molecules can react and, secondly, bromine atoms are removed by reaction (4). The chain length is determined then by the relative probability of reactions (2) and (4).

The probability of reaction (4) is decreased by the fact that atoms can recombine only if a third body is present to carry off the energy released in the reaction. Polyatomic radicals may in some cases be able to recombine in the absence of a third body, since the possibility exists of distribution of the energy among several types of vibration and stabilization of the molecule for the period between collisions.

The hydrogen bromine reaction introduces several concepts of value in understanding the mechanism of gaseous oxidations:

- (1) The importance of intermediates in bimolecular reactions.
- (2) The influence of the energy requirements of the individual processes on the reaction kinetics.
- (3) The possibility of chain formation.
- (4) The termolecular character of most recombination or association reactions.

(5) The possibility of the course of the reaction's being affected by the reaction chamber's dimensions, because of chain breaking or initiation at the surface or the vessel.

Two further concepts are required for the elucidation of gaseous oxidation reactions: That of chain branching and that of formation of degenerate branching chains. Chain branching, originally postulated by Semenov², may be illustrated by the following sequence of reactions, which form part of the mechanism for the hydrogen oxygen reaction proposed by Von Elbe and Lewis³.

- (1) $H_2O_2 + M = 2 \text{ OH}$
- (2) OH + H2 = H2O + H
- (3) $H + O_2 = OH + O$
- (4) 0 + H2 = OH + H
- (5) $H + O_2 + M = HO_2 + M$
- (6) $HO_2 + H_2 = H_2O_2 + H$
- (7) 2 HO₂ surface, H₂O₂ + O₂
- (12) H, O, OH surface destruction.

Consideration of the above scheme shows that each hydrogen atom reacting according to (3) leads to two particles capable of carrying on chains. A similar situation holds for reaction (4). As a consequence, if conditions are provided whereby reactions (5) and (12) become relatively unimportant, the number of chains will increase at a rate comparable to the collision number and explosion may result. Reactions in which chain branching may occur may be expected, therefore, to show great sensitivity to experimental conditions, since the effect of the branching is to raise to a high power (\sim 10%) any slight change in the relative probabilities of the chain branching and chain ending processes. [(2)and(3) vs. (5)and(12)]

"Degenerate branching" of chains was postulated by Semenov3b,3c,3d to explain certain phenomena observed in the oxidation of hydrocarbons, such as the induction period and "cool flame". The phenomenon may be illustrated by the following hypothetical series of steps.

(i) $RH \longrightarrow R + H$

- (1) RH + H \longrightarrow R + H₂
- (2) $R \longrightarrow R! + \text{olefin}$
- (3) olefin + 02 --- peroxide
- (5) aldehydes --- free radicals + CO + H
- (6) $R' + RH \longrightarrow R'H + R$

This (purely illustrative) chain is propagated by reactions (1), (2) and (6). Branching can occur by (3), (4) and (5). However, since the products formed in (3) and (4) are relatively stable, the branching reactions are insignificant until an appreciable concentration of these intermediates is built up. Reaction may then proceed with rapidity or even violence.

The above review indicates that even a qualitative understanding of the mechanism of a reaction requires a knowledge of the identity, relative concentrations and method of reaction or destruction of the intermediate particles. Quantitative understanding requires, in addition, an estimation of the rate constants and activation energies of the individual step reactions, and the accommodation coefficients, collision cross-sections, diffusion rates, radiation probabilities and the rates of interchange of translational, rotational, vibrational and electronic energies among species and degrees of freedom.

In the following pages a brief attempt is made to show what progress toward these objectives has been made in the study of the oxidation of hydrogen, CO, methane and other hydrocarbons. Other oxidation processes are then reviewed and finally reference is made to papers dealing with the theory of chemical kinetics, with various physical aspects of combustion, with thermodynamic studies of fuels or combustion, and with rocket propellants.

C. The Hydrogen-Oxygen Reaction.

In common with other oxidation reactions, in which chain branching occurs, the hydrogen-oxygen reaction shows sharply defined regions of temperature and pressure in which the reaction rate increases rapidly with time so that explosion may result. Within these regions, as explained above, the probability of chain branching is greater than that of chain breaking. The boundaries of the regions are characterized by

the manner in which they are observed experimentally, as the low pressure limit, the second limit and the high pressure or thermal limit. Thus, if a mixture of given composition is introduced into a vessel at a temperature of 575° C. and the pressure gradually increased, reaction will be negligible until the pressure reaches about 5 mm., when an explosion will occur. Mixtures introduced at pressures in the range 5 to about 150 mm. will explode in approaching thermal and kinetic equilibrium. Above this pressure, reaction proceeds at a finite but constant rate until a pressure of about 350 mm. is reached, when a third explosion occurs.

THE STATE OF THE S

The effects on the hydrogen-oxygen reaction of pressure, temperature and vessel dimensions are well explained by the most recent mechanism proposed by Von Elbe and Lewis^{3a}.

- (1) $H_2O_2 + M = 2$ OH
- (2) OH + H2 = H2O + H
- (3) $H + O_2 = OH + O$
- (4) $0 + H_2 = OH + H$
- (5) $H + O_2 + M = HO_2 + M$
- (6) $HO_2 + H_2 = H_2O_2 + H$
- (7) $2HO_2$ surface, $H_2^{\bullet}O_2 + O$
- (8) $H + O_2 + H_2O_2 = H_2O + O_2 + OH$
- (9) $HO_2 + H_2O_2 = H_2O + O_2 + OH$
- (10) H₂O₂ surface, H₂O + 1/2 O₂
- (11) H₂ + O₂ surface, H₂O₂
- (12) H, O, CH surface, destruction

In a very detailed examination of the kinetic consequences of this scheme, Von Elbe and Lewis show that it is in quantitative agreement with the observed low and high pressure explosion limits and third explosion limit, and that it correctly predicts the effect of change in vessel dimensions. The authors give values of the rate constants and activation energies of all reactions except (2) and (4). Concentrations of HO₂ and H are also presented.

The scheme has been substantiated by work of Nalbandjan^{4a},^b,^c, who derives a theoretical expression for the dependence of the induction period on pressure and temperature, from which the activation energy of reaction (3) is deduced to be 23 K calories. (Instead of the value of 17 Kcal quoted by Von Elbe and Lewis). Zel'dovich and Semenov, however, from a study of the combustion of moist CO arrived at a value of 18 Kcal for the same reaction. The Von Elbe and Lewis scheme is also in agreement with results of photo chemical experiments by Smith⁵ who postulated reactions (2), (3), (4), (5), (6), and (7) plus

$$0_2 + h \downarrow \longrightarrow 20$$

$$0 + 0_2 + M \longrightarrow 0_3 + M$$

to explain his data.

Oldenberg and Morris⁶ state in a preliminary report that the Von Elbe and Lewis theory does not correctly predict their observations on the effect of Pyrex vessel size on the third explosion limit although it is strikingly successful in predicting the effect of added gases on the second explosion limit. Undoubtedly further inconsistencies in the quantitative aspects of the theory will appear as further experimental work is performed, but it seems unlikely that major changes in the basic mechanism will be required.

Studies of various phases of the hydrogen-oxygen reaction by a number of investigators are listed below under appropriate headings.

(1) Mechanism and Kinetic Theory.

An early treatment upon which most of the later work is based was given by Kassel". Polyakov and co-workers8-16 have discussed the mechanism with particular reference to the prediction of H₂O₂ formation. Frank-Kamenetskiil? has applied his theory of thermal explosions with success to the third explosion limit. Behrens¹⁸ and Clusius and Gutschmidt¹⁹ have discussed the effect of hydrogen diffusion on the rate of flame propagation. The latter authors experimented with light and heavy hydrogen.

(2) Induction Period.

In addition to the work of Nalbandjan previously mentioned, Shtern, Kravets and Sokolik²⁰ have studied the auto-ignition of mixtures of hydrogen and air.

(3) Thermal Reaction.

The thermal reaction has been the subject of a number of studies by Oldenberg and co-workers 21-24, by Chirkov 25, who concludes from his work that the mechanism of the reaction is different at high and low pressures, and by Neimark, Kulashina and Polyakov 26.

(4) Lower Limit of Ignition or Explosion.

The effect of various experimental conditions, including the presence of metal wires of different compositions, was investigated by Kimata, Aomi and Goto²⁷ and Horiba and Goto²⁸. Data on the lower region of ignition in quartz and pyrex vessels with and without added argon were obtained by Biron and Nalbandjan²⁹. Tanzin³⁰ and Garner and Pugh³¹ have studied the propagation of low pressure flames in tutes. Hayakawa and Goto³² have studied the spark ignition of $H_2 - 0_2$ mixtures at low pressures.

(5) Second Explosion Limit.

An extensive investigation of the explosion limit as a function of pressure was made by Dyksman³³ using various types of sparks for ignition. Von Elbe and Lewis³⁴ have discussed the consequences for the theoretical mechanism of the effect of water vapor on the second explosion limit. Much of the work mentioned under Section (4) is also pertinent to this topic.

(6) Reaction in the Region of the "hird Explosion Limit.

The theory and kinetics of the third explosion limit have been studied by Von Elbe³⁵, Heiple and Lewis³⁶, Oldenberg and Sommers³⁷, Oldenberg³⁸ and Ziskin³⁹.

(7) Effect of additives.

References are listed without discussion under appropriate headings.

- (a) Nitrogen Dioxide.

 Von Elbe and Lewis 40,41, Norrish and Dainton 42, 5,

 Crist and Wertz 43.
- (b) Nitrosyl Chloride.
 Dainton and Norrish44,45.
- (c) Nitrous Oxide Danby46.

- (d) Inert Gases
 Von Elbe and Lewis 47, Jorrissen 48, Valkenburg 49
- (e) Hydrogen Peroxide
 Dainton and Norrish50
- (f) Silver
 Nalbandjan⁵¹,52
- (g) Carbon Monoxide Prettre53
- (8) Measurement or Calculation of Concentration or Reaction Rates of Intermediates.

Studies of the concentration of hydroxyl radicals in reacting hydrogen-oxygen mixtures have been made by Avramenko 4,55, by Kondrat'ev and Ziskin on and by Oldenberg and co-workers 7,58,59,60. Kondrat'ev has reviewed spectroscopic data on OH obtained from various sources. Rodebush has studied products obtained from reactions in a glow discharge and mentions the use of the luminescence of the reaction NO + O as a test for the presence of oxygen atoms. Von Elbe and Lewis discuss reactions of HO2 and give rate constants for the reactions

$$H + O_2 + H_2 = HO_2 + H_2$$

and

$$H + O_2 \longrightarrow OH + O.$$

Semenov64 gives rate constants for the latter reaction and

$$H_2 + O_2 = 2 \text{ OH.}$$

Baker⁶⁵, Kondrat'eva and Kondrat'ev⁶⁶, and Mackenzie and Mowbray⁶⁷ discuss the decomposition of hydrogen peroxide.

(9) Photochemical and Spectroscopic Observations.

In addition to the work of Smith⁵, the photochemical oxidation of hydrogen has been studied by Nalbandjan⁶⁸ and Pavlyuchenko⁶⁹. Kitagawa⁷⁰ has found spectroscopically, water molecules with vibrational energies as high as 50 Kcal. A chain mechanism is proposed in explanation. Kondrat'ev^{70a} has computed the temperature dependence of the lower limit from spectroscopic measurements of hydroxyl concentration. Oldenberg^{70c} has studied OH radicals produced by a discharge in water vapor.

(10) General

A clear and interesting review of the mechanism of the hydrogen-oxygen reaction has been given by Von Elbe^{70b} who lists the following values for some of the rate constants for the reaction steps.

Absolute Values of Rate Coefficients and Activation Energies

$$k_3 = 1 \times 10^{-17} \sqrt{T/803} \text{ e}^{-(1-T/803)17000/803R} \text{ cm.} 3 \text{ sec.}^{-1}$$
 $k_6 = 4.23 \times 10^{-19} \sqrt{T/803} \text{ e}^{-(1-T/803)24000/803R} \text{ cm.} 3 \text{ sec.}^{-1}$
 $k_9 = 2.0 \times 10^{-16} \sqrt{T/803} \text{ e}^{-(1-T/803)14000/803R} \text{ cm.} 3 \text{ sec.}^{-1}$
 $k_{1}, H_{2} = 3.39 \times 10^{-22} \sqrt{T/803} \text{ e}^{-(1-T/803)45500/803R} \text{ cm.} 3 \text{ sec.}^{-1}$
 $k_{5}, H_{2} = 3.7 \times 10^{-35} \sqrt{T/803} \text{ cm.} 6 \text{ sec.}^{-1}$
 $k_{1}, H_{2} = 3.7 \times 10^{-35} \sqrt{T/803} \text{ cm.} 6 \text{ sec.}^{-1}$
 $k_{1}, H_{2} = 17.2 \times 10^{20} \sqrt{T/803} \text{ cm.}^{-1} \text{ sec.}^{-1}$

D. Combustion of Carbon Monoxide.

Although the reaction of carbon monoxide and oxygen appears superficially to present less complicating features than that of hydrogen and oxygen, the details of the mechanism are less well understood. Experimentally, the reaction shows a low pressure and high pressure explosion limits occurring at 600°C at about 13 and 30 mm. respectively (Zyono⁷¹). There is some doubt, however, that explosion can occur in the absence of sources of hydrogen atoms. Buckler and Norrish⁷², Lewis and Von Elbe⁷³ have proposed a reaction mechanism involving CO3, ozone and oxygen atoms which satisfactorily explains the upper explosion limit as a function of pressure and added gases. This mechanism has been criticized by Jost⁷⁴ who feels the evidence favors a branching due to energy chains rather than radicals. Nork of Gaydon⁹¹ on the absorption of hot oxygen in dry CO-O₂ flames is of interest in this connection. Zatsiorskii, Kondrateev and Solnishkova^{87b} have studied spectroscopically the reaction between CO and O₃, which is of importance in the mechanisms proposed by Von Elbe and Lewis³ and Jost⁷⁴.

Interpretation of the reaction is rendered difficult by its extreme

sensitivity to traces of hydrogen or other impurities, and most of the work since 1938 has been concentrated on mixtures of carbon monoxide and oxygen containing additives.

Buckler and Norrish⁷⁵, ⁷⁶ appear to have established the following mechanism for the hydrogen sensitized reaction:

$$H + O_2 = OH + O$$

 $O + H_2 = CH + H$)

Chain Branching

 $OH + H_2 = H_2O + H$)

 $OH + CO = CO_2 + H$)

Chain Propagation

 $OH + O_2 + M = HO_2 + M$)

 $OH + O_3 + M = HO_3 + M$

Chain Ending

Support for the mechanism was found in experiments on the ignition limits using D_2 instead of H_2 and using inert gases. The work of Norrish is in agreement with experiments of Kondrat'eva and Kondrat'ev77 who have measured the concentration of hydroxyl radicals present during the reaction. Their measurements show that the hydroxyl concentration is one hundred times the equilibrium thermal concentration and prove that the radical is produced by chemical means. Comparison of the rate of disappearance of OH with the rate of formation of CO_2 shows that the two rates are in agreement substantiating the hypothesis that CO_2 is formed primarily by

with an activation energy of 10 Kcal. From a study of the emission of radiation of moist and dry carbon monoxide flames, Kondrat'eva and Kondrat'ev⁷⁸ concluded that the reaction mechanism was different in the two mixtures. Their measurements of the total amount of radiation 79 indicated that one molecule in ten of CO₂ was in an excited state. Kondrat'ev⁸⁰ and Zel'dovich and Semenov^{81a}, 81b have reviewed experimental work.

Additional work on carbon monoxide oxidation is summarized below under appropriate headings.

(1) Slow Thermal Reaction.

Korneieva⁸² has studied the effect of platinum wires of various lengths on the rate of the slow oxidation. The results are interpreted to indicate a predominantly homogeneous chain reaction at temperatures above 600°C but with some evidence of catalysis or inhibition by surface effects. Below 600°C, the reaction becomes more heterogeneous.

(2) Reaction in the Region of the Upper Explosion Limit.

The effect of quartz surface on the reaction has been studied by Kondo and Toyama83.

A Report Land

(3) Spectroscopic and Photochemical Studies.

Kondratieva and Kondratiev⁸⁴ have determined the chain length in the photo-oxidation of ∞ as a function of the temperature. The length varies from 2 at 400°C to 560 at 490°C where the dark reaction is appreciable. Faltings, Groth and Harteck⁸⁸ and Groth⁸⁸a have studied the photochemical decomposition at room temperature using CO and CO, H₂ mixtures. In the latter case, HCO was postulated as an intermediate product to explain H₂CO production. Flame studies have been made by Kondratieva and Kondratiev⁷⁷, 78, 79, 80, 84, 85, 86, 87, 87b Tawde⁸⁹, Bonhoeffer⁹⁰, Gaydon 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, who finds evidence in the last reference for a high concentration of atomic oxygen in both dry and moist CO flames, and Jorissen⁹⁷.

(4) Mixtures and Additives.

Further studies have been conducted by Walls 98, who found evidence for a change in mechanism with change in pressure in H2, CO oxidations; Karzhavina 99 who studied the effect of water at temperatures over 1000°C; by Dijksman who studied CH4-CO-O2 mixtures; by Drozdov and Zel'dovich 101 who investigated the effect CCl4 on the flame propagation; and Calhoun 102, Brown and Crist 103 who studied CO-NO2-O2 mixtures.

E. Oxidation of Hydrocarbons.

Because of the large number of intermediate reactions possible in the oxidation of hydrocarbons, only a few general conclusions have been drawn regarding the reaction mechanisms. The oxidation of all hydrocarbons displays certain general features indicating that the reactions proceed through the formation of degenerate chains, but the specific intermediates involved have not been established. It is evident that much more extensive studies, possibly supplemented by new techniques, are required of the oxidation of the specific hydrocarbons before an approach can be made to a quantitative understanding of the processes involved.

(1) Methane.

Studies of the partial oxidation of methane by a number of investigators, e.g. Garner and Ham, 104 Slotin and Style 105, Bone and Gardner 106, and Degens 107 have shown that formaldehyde

methyl alcohol, formic acid and traces of peroxides are formed, as well as water, carbon monoxide, hydrogen and carbon dioxide. The reaction shows an induction period which varies with pressure and temperature in accordance with the degenerate chain theory of Semenov (Gardner and Hamlo4). Addition of any of the intermediates shortens the induction period, indicating that they or products of their decomposition play a part in the chain reaction. Formally, these observations may be explained by a number of theories, of which, superficially at least, the most satisfactory is that of Von Elbe^{70b}. The following scheme is proposed:

(1) OH + CH₄
$$\longrightarrow$$
 H₂O + CH₃

(2)
$$CH_3 + O_2 \longrightarrow CH_3O_2 \longrightarrow H_2CO + OH$$

(3) OH +
$$H_2CO \longrightarrow H_2O + HCO$$

(4)
$$HCO + O_2 \longrightarrow HO_2 + CO$$

(5)
$$HO_2 + H_2CO \longrightarrow HCOOH + OH$$

(6)
$$HCOOH \longrightarrow H_2O + CO$$

Evidence for all of the above reactions appears to be on rather firm ground through work of Von Elbe and Lewis 108, Van Tiggelen 130b, and Harteck, Groth and Faltings 88 among others. The mechanism explains the induction period and, qualitatively the explosion limits, but additional steps would be required to explain the remaining intermediate products. A more extensive discussion of these points is given in references 70b, 74, 109, 110 and 141.

Additional work pertinent to the oxidation of methane is reviewed below.

(a) Ignition and Induction Period.

Kanelll has compared ignition temperature as a function of pressure for a number of the simpler aliphatic hydrocarbons, alcohols and aldehydes. The purpose was to determine the relative reactivity of alcohols, aldehydes and parent hydrocarbons. For the single C-atom set, the order aldehyde alcohol hydrocarbon was observed. Townendll has tabulated

ignition temperatures and inflammability limits of a wide variety of hydrocarbons. Sachssell3 has measured induction times and ignition temperatures in methane oxygen mixtures by a flow method. Polyakov and Kuleshinall4 have studied the effect of mixture ratio and added gas. Malinovskii and Malyarll5 and Daviesll6 have studied the ignition of methane by hot wires.

(b) Second Pressure Limits.

Explosion pressure as a function of mixture composition was studied by Dijksman and Brandhofll?.

(c) Reactions of Intermediates and Products.

Kushnerev and Shekter¹¹⁸ obtained about 50% H₂CO by reaction of methane with oxygen atoms. Soloveichik¹¹⁹found that ozone gave only partial oxidation of methane. Staronka and Czerski¹²⁰, l²¹ studied the variation in the amounts of methyl alcohol and formaldehyde formed as a function of time and mixture ratio. Polyakov and Stadnik¹²² found that an organic peroxide is not a primary oxidation product.

(d) Photochemical and Spectroscopic Studies.

Groth and Laudenklos¹²³ and Groth¹²⁴ studied the photodecomposition of methane. An extensive study of flames of hydrocarbons including methane has been made by Vaidya.¹²⁵ Bands of OH, HCO, C₂, CH have been identified. The bearing of the observations on the mechanism of combustion is discussed. Similar studies have been made by Guenault, ¹²⁶ Coppens, ¹²⁷ and Bell.¹²⁸

- (e) Studies of Additives and Mixtures.
 - 1. Ethylene
 Rivin 129 found that purified methane air mixtures
 did not detonate. On addition of .3% ethylene,
 the mixture could be exploded.
 - 2. Nitrogen
 Polyakov and co-workers130, 130a have studied
 the formation of nitrogen oxides as a function
 of composition pressure and dimensions of the
 reaction vessel.

- 3. Methyl Nitrite
 Gimmelman and Neiman¹³¹ found that methyl
 nitrite eliminated the induction period
 in methane and ethane combustions.
- Norrish and Reagh¹³² have examined theoretically and experimentally the influence of surface on the reaction and the bearing of the results on the chain theory. Polyakov and co-workers^{133,134} investigated the effect of platinum on the induction period. Jorissen and Lebbink¹³⁵ found that the reaction temperature of methane-oxygen mixtures varied between 170°C and 540°C depending on the salt used to coat the inside of the reaction vessel. Life gave the lowest temperature, RbI the highest, while in the uncosted vessel, the minimum temperature for observable reaction was 250°C.
- (f) Studies of Reaction Mechanism or Kinetics.

Van Tiggelen 136a, b has proposed a mechanism for methane oxidation depending on hydroxyl radicals and HOO radicals for chain propagation. This is essentially the same process as proposed by Von Elbe. Prettre137 proposes that two mechanisms operate in the oxidation of methane and ethane, one involving peroxidation at temperatures around 200 to 300°C and the other above 500°C, where peroxides apparently play no part. Polyakov and Korneeval38 have investigated the kinetics of slow combustion of methane at low pressures in the presence of platinum surfaces. Norrish 139 has studied in considerable detail the kinetics of methane combustion. Among other things, his work shows that chlorine at low pressures inhibits reactions, but at high pressures catalyses it; iodine has a marked anti-catalytic effect in the neighborhood of ignition temperature. Addition of small amounts of formaldehyde removes the induction period but does not alter the maximum velocity of the reaction. Nitrogen peroxide has a strong sensitizing reaction and HCl catalyses the production of formaldehyde. The mechanism proposed involves an atom chain modified to include the phenomena of degenerate branching. Semsnov139a has also proposed an atom chain to explain oxidation of methane and other hydrides. Newitt and Gardner 139b have investigated the compounds formed during the induction period in the slow exidation of methane. Ogura 141 has reviewed the oxidation of methane.

(g) Thermal Decomposition of Methane.

Patat¹⁴⁰, ¹⁴⁰a has studied the reaction CH₃ + H₂ by means of para hydrogen. Hinshelwood and co-workers ¹⁴², ¹⁴³ used nitric oxide to study the chain length in the methane decomposition, and Letort and Duval¹⁴⁴ found evidence with tellurium mirrors that CH₂ radicals are formed in an electric discharge through methane.

(2) Ethane.

No examinations of ethane oxidation of sufficient generality to serve as a basis for a complete mechanism have been proposed. However, various aspects of the oxidation have been studied and these are summarized under the appropriate headings.

(a) Reaction Kinetics.

Sadovnikov¹⁴⁶ has studied ethane oxidation at pressures of 50 to 200 mm., temperatures in the range of 600 to 750°C with various reaction vessels and found that the kinetics can be explained in terms of the Semenov theory of branching chain reactions. Andreev¹⁴⁷ has investigated the influence of water, carbon dioxide and carbon monoxide on the kinetics. Gimmel'man, Neiman, and Sokov¹⁴⁸ have investigated the effect of nitrogen dioxide and methyl nitrite on the region of inflammation of ethane-oxygen mixtures. Fernandez¹⁴⁹ has investigated the effect of ozone on the combustion of a number of hydrocarbons including ethane. Chirkov¹⁵⁰ studied the action of water vapor on the kinetics of ethane oxidation.

(b) Photochemical Studies.

The photochemical decomposition of ethane has been studied by Faltings¹⁵¹, who found the primary products to be methyl radicals.

(c) Thermal Decomposition.

Thermal decomposition of ethane has been investigated by Hobbs and Hinshelwood 152, Theile 153,154, Storch and Kassel 155, Steacie 156, Steacie and Shane 157, Kuchler and Theile 158, and Dintses 159. Rice and Herzfeld 160 have examined the bearing of new values of the heats of activation on the mechanism of the thermal decomposition of ethane, which they proposed earlier.

(3) Propane.

A tentative scheme for the oxidation of propane, proposed by Von Elbe^{70b}, is presented on the following page. An enormous amount of research would be required to prove or disprove its validity. In the main, the mechanism predicts correctly the products obtained by Newitt and co-workers¹⁶¹, ¹⁶² who have made careful studies of the intermediates formed by slow oxidation. These workers found n propyl, isopropyl, ethyl and methyl alcohols, formaldehyde and higher aldehydes, acetone and traces of peroxides in the product of the slow oxidation at pressures above ten atmospheres. Harris and Egerton^{162a} found propylene and H₂O₂ also. Other investigations of propane are summarized below under appropriate headings.

(a) Inflammation Ranges.

The cool flame range of propane in air at ordinary temperatures and pressures above 12 atm. has been determined by Hsieh and Townend163. Van der Hoeven164 has studied the low pressure limit.

(b) Reaction Kinetics and Physical Measurements.

The kinetics of propane oxidation have been studied by Peasel65,166,166a and by Newitt and Thornes167. Van der Poll and Westerdijk168 have measured the flame temperature of propane oxygen mixtures and Ribaud and Gaudry169 have investigated the effect of pressure on the velocity of flame propagation.

(c) Studies of Mixtures and Additives.

Fernandez¹⁴⁹ found that ozone accelerates propane oxidation, Kane¹⁷⁰ has studied the effect of nitrogen peroxide on the ignition of propane butane and acetaldehyde. His results suggest a different mechanism of oxidation at high and low temperatures depending on the stability of the intermediate hydrocarbons. From studies of the effect of surface treatment on the ignition characteristics, Day¹⁷¹ concluded that peroxides were not of primary importance in the phenomena of cool flames.

(d) Mechanism.

A mechanism of propane oxidation involving propane molecules was proposed by Pease¹⁷² in 1935.

Tentative Scheme of Chain Reaction Between Propane and Oxygen

Branching Path: 0.

$$C_{3}H_{7}OO \xrightarrow{CH_{3}CHO}$$
, $C_{3}H_{7}OO \cdot C \cdot CH_{3} \xrightarrow{C_{3}H_{8}}$
 $C_{3}H_{7}OO \xrightarrow{CH_{3}CHO}$, $C_{3}H_{7}OO \cdot C \cdot CH_{3} \xrightarrow{C_{3}H_{8}}$
 $C_{3}H_{7}OO \xrightarrow{C_{2}H_{5}OO} \xrightarrow{C_{2}H_{5}OH} + CO + OH$
 $C_{3}H_{7}OO \xrightarrow{C_{3}H_{8}}$, $C_{3}H_{7}OO \cdot C \cdot CH_{3} \xrightarrow{C_{3}H_{8}}$
 $C_{3}H_{7}OO \xrightarrow{C_{2}H_{5}OH} + CO + OH$
 $C_{2}H_{5}O_{2} \xrightarrow{O_{2}} HCHO* + CO + H_{2}O + OH$
 $C_{3}H_{8}$, $C_{3}H_{8}$, $C_{3}H_{7}OO \cdot C$

Side Reactions:

$$CH_3CH(OH)OOH \xrightarrow{HCHO} CH_3CH(OH)OOCH(OH)H \longrightarrow$$

$$\begin{cases} CH_4 \\ 2HCOOH \xrightarrow{} 2CO + 2H_2O \end{cases}$$

⁻¹⁸⁻

Pease and Munro report that a test for this aldehyde was negative. J. Am. Chem. Soc., <u>56</u>, 2034 (1934)

(e) Thermal Decomposition.

Burk¹⁷³ has proposed a theory for the decomposition of straight chain hydrocarbons which he feels is superior to that of Rice. He assumes that every C-C bond is equivalent and that reaction occurs when a given amount of energy is accumulated in a single bond. The rate is given then by the probability of the localization of the requisite energy.

(4) Butane.

The mechanism of the oxidation of butane and the higher straight chain paraffins is presumably similar to that of propane. No general discussion will be attempted of the mechanism of these reactions.

(a) Ignition.

Andreev174 has investigated the effect of pressure and temperature on the "cold" and "hot" flames of butane. Neiman and Tutakin175,176 studied the kinetics of the cold flame phenomena and concluded that the results were evidence for the chain theory of reaction. Pushlenkov177 showed that the silent discharge reduces the induction period of the cold flame.

(b) Studies of Mixtures and Additives.

Aivazov, Neiman and Khanova¹⁷⁸, Avramenko and Neiman¹⁷⁹, and Aivazov and Neumann^{179a} studied the effect of H₂, CO₂, diethyl and diisopropyl ethers, acetone, NO₂ and acetaldehyde on the induction period of the cold and hot flames. Only diethyl ether, aldehyde and NO₂ promote ignition. Blat, Gerber and Neiman¹⁸⁰, ¹⁸¹ studied the effect of diethyl peroxide and methyl hydroperoxide on the induction period and derived an expression, based on the Semenov theory, which gave quantitative agreement with their results. Smittenberg and Kooijman^{181a} have studied the effect of lead tetraethyl on the flame velocity and concluded that the antiknock action of the lead was caused by its effect on the preflame reaction rather than on the flame speed. The effect of ozone has been investigated by Fernandez¹⁴⁹ and the effect of NO₂ by Kane¹⁷⁰. Schuit^{181b} has made an extensive study of the effect of surface and of a large number of additives.

(c) Mechanism.

The role of peroxides in the formation of cold and hot hydrocarbon flames has been reviewed by Neiman 182.

(d) Thermal Decomposition.

The thermal decomposition of butane has been studied by Echols and Pease¹⁸³, ¹⁸⁴. The decomposition induced by free radicals is discursed by Rice and Polly¹⁸⁵ and Steacie and Folkins¹⁸⁶, the NO inhibited reaction by Steacie¹⁸⁷. An alternative to Rice's theory has been proposed by Burk¹⁷³.

(5) Pentane.

(a) Ignition.

The ignition delay and slow exidation of pentane exygen mixtures have been shown by Prettrel88,189 and Shtern, Kravets and Sokolik¹⁹⁰ to be in accord with predictions of the Semenov theory.

(b) Reaction Kinetics.

Further kinetic studies have been made by Aivazov and Neiman¹⁹¹ and Prettre¹⁹².

(c) Studies of Mixtures and Additives.

Ai azov and Neiman^{179a}, ¹⁹³ observed the effect of addition of N₂, NO₂ and CH₂CHO on the induction period of cold flames. Belov^{193a} investigated the effect of diisopropyl ether and proposed an integral equation valuable in predicting the length of the induction period. Prettre¹⁹⁴ has studied the inhibition action of hydrogen and of the metal walls¹⁹⁵. Fernandez¹⁴⁹ has studied the action of ozone in the slow combustion and Kane¹⁷⁰, the effect of NO₂. Neiman¹⁸² reviews the role of peroxides in the formation of hydrocarbon flames.

(d) Mechanism.

Aivazov and Neiman¹⁹⁶ propose a two stage mechanism to explain the low temperature combustion of pentane.

(e) Thermal Decomposition.

Gray and Travers¹⁹⁷ have studied neopentane decomposition. We chanisms of hydrocarbon decomposition have been proposed by Rice and Polly¹⁸⁵ and Burk¹⁷³.

(6) Ethylene.

Apparently the mechanism of ethylene oxidation resembles that of the saturated hydrocarbons, the principal difference in the products being the appearance of ethylene oxide. Jost 198 has found evidence from the spectrum that the reaction involves hydroxyl radicals, as reactions of saturated hydrocarbons appear to. Smith 198a has also studied the flame spectrum.

(a) Ignition.

Forsyth and Townend 199 and Kane 200 have determined the inflammation range of ethylene at various pressures and found that NO₂ facilitates combustion.

(b) Reaction Kinetics.

The slow oxidation of ethylene in the presence of varying lengths of platinum wire has been studied by Polyakov and Vainshtein²⁰¹ and Polyakov²⁰². Burning velocities and inflammability ranges were investigated by Young and Krase²⁰³.

(c) Studies of Mixtures and Additives.

Bone 204 has studied the effect of dilution with inert gases on explosions of ethylene and oxygen.

(7) Acetylene.

The oxidation of acetylene probably proceeds through the initial formation of an acetyl radical, which reacts with oxygen to form a glyoxal radical (Lewis and Von Elbe^{70b}):

OH +
$$C_2H_2$$
 \longrightarrow HC \equiv C \longrightarrow + H_2O
HC \equiv C \longrightarrow + O_2 \longrightarrow CHO • CO \longrightarrow CHO • CHO • HC \equiv C \longrightarrow

(a) Reaction Kinetics.

Steacie²⁰⁵ investigated the oxidation of acetylene and proposed a mechanism involving direct oxidation as the first step. Boxe²⁰⁴ studied the effect of inert gases on the explosive combustion. Khitrin^{205a} studied the effect of pressure on the rate of flame propagation.

(b) Spectroscopic Studies.

Avramenko²⁰⁶, ²⁰⁶ measured the OH concentration and found that the number of OH radicals was proportional to the combustion rate. Jorrisen⁹⁷ studied the behavior of flames burning in a combustible almosphere. Rossikhin and Timkovskii²⁰⁷, ²⁰⁸ studied the affect of a high frequency discharge on the flame spectrum. No significant effect was found. Geib and Vaidya²⁰⁸ studied the flame in atomic oxygen and Tominaga and Okemoto²⁰⁸ the flame in Cl₂ and Br₂.

(c) Thermal Reaction.

Frank-Kamenetskii²⁰⁹ investigated the kinetics of the polymerization reaction.

(8) Aromatics.

An extensive series of investigations of the oxidation of aromatics has been conducted by Burgoyne and Newitt²¹⁰⁻²¹⁴and Fohlbusch^{214a}. The reactions are characterized by primary oxidation of the side chains followed by phenol formation and then ring rupture. A detailed mechanism has not been proposed. Vaidya^{214b} concludes from spectroscopic studies that oxygen is first incorporated in the ring.

(a) Ignition.

Maccormac and Townend²¹⁵ studied the spontaneous ignition under pressure. Liviu²¹⁶ investigated the ignition potentials of the xylenes.

(b) Reaction Kinetics.

The kinetics of the slow combustion of benzene have been studied by Amiel²¹⁷. The products contained phenol and benzoquinone but no peroxides. Fahlbusch^{214a} has reviewed (1942) the oxidation, thermal and photochemical decomposition of simple aromatic compounds.

(c) Thermal Decomposition

Hein and Vesee²¹⁸ studied free radical formation from

pyrolysis of benzene and toluene at 900 - 1100°C. Unequivocal evidence for the tolyl radical was found but the product from benzene could not be identified.

- (9) Studies of Miscellaneous Hydrocarbons.
 - (a) Ignition and Induction Phenomena.

Damkohle— and Eggersgluss²¹⁹ investigated the products formed by rapid compression without ignition of gasoline air mixtures. Using a similar technique Jost et al²²⁰,^{220a} obtained curves of induction period vs temperature for heptane, isocotane and benzene. Spontaneous ignition and slow combustion of paraffin and olefin hydrocarbons have been discussed by Newitt and Townend²²¹, Hsieh and Townend¹⁶³, Day and Pease^{166a}, Teichmann²²², and Townend²²³. Reutenauer²²⁴ determined the upper and lower ignition regions of ketene, decalin and dipentene. Treer²²⁵ has tabulated values of the constants in an equation useful for predicting ignition times.

(b) Reaction Kinetics.

Thermal studies of hydrocarbon oxidation have been made by Estradere 226. Kroger and Kaller 227 studied the concentration of peroxides in cetane oxidized for varying time intervals. Maillard and Friedrich 228 determined the products of incomplete combustion of light hydrocarbons. The preliminary reactions in a gasoline engine re studied by Peletier, van Hoogstraten, Smitter org and Kooyman 229, and the oxidation of cracked gases by Pigulevskii and Gulyaeva 230.

(c) Mechanism.

Gervart and Frank-Kamenetskii²³¹ have discussed the periodic character of the cold flame of hydrocarbon-air mixtures under turbulent flow, in terms of the Frank-Kamenetskii theory. George, Rideal and Robertson²³² found support for the primary formation of hydroperoxides in oxidation through experiments on catalyzed and uncatalyzed oxidation of aimyl benzenes and long chain aliphatic hydrocarbons. Jost, Muffling and Rohrmann²³³ proposed (1936) a generalized chain reaction for hydrocarbon oxidation. Prettre²³⁴ discusses the negative temperature coefficient of hydrocarbon oxidation in terms of the formation of an intermediate which may decompose

to give branching or stable products. Semenov²³⁵ gives a preliminary theory to explain hydrocarbon oxidation. Townend²³⁶ discusses the possible connection between "blue flames" and peroxide decomposition. Ubbelhode²³⁷,²³⁸ has reviewed the oxidation of paraffins. Von Elbe²³⁹ proposed (1937) a mechanism for hydrocarbon oxidation. Von Elbe and Lewis²⁴⁰ have discussed the relation between hydrocarbon oxidizability and engine knock.

(d) Studies of Mixtures and Additives.

Briner, El-Djabri and Paillard²⁴¹ and Tawada²⁴² studied the ozonization of hexane, heptane and octanes. Maess²⁴³ studied the accelerating effect on the oxidation of heptane, of free radicals formed from azomethane decomposition. Ubbelohde²⁴⁴ discusses the effect of pro-detonant additives on hydrocarbon combustion. Vyrubov²⁴⁵ studied the effect of czone and hydrogen on oxidation in Diesel engines.

(e) Spectroscopic Studies.

Kondrat'ev and Ziskin²⁴⁶ showed that the hydroxyl radical concentration in hydrocarbon flames is several hundred times the equilibrium concentration, indicating that these radicals are an important factor in hydrocarbon oxidation. Townend²⁴⁷ mentions candoluminescence as a test for hydrogen atoms in flames. Gaydon²⁴⁷² discusses the spectra of chilled hydrocarbon flames.

(f) Thermal Decomposition.

Küchler²⁴⁸ has found the thermal decomposition of cyclohexene to be a homogeneous first order reaction. Mayor²⁴⁹ has reviewed the free radical theory of hydrocarbon decomposition. Rice and Polly²⁵⁰ have explained the inhibiting effect of nitric oxide in terms of chain breaking. Burk¹⁷³ has proposed an alternative to the Rice theory.

F. Oxidation of Aldehydes.

Although aldehydes occur as intermediates in the oxidation of hydrocarbons and are themselves important as fuel constituents, few studies of their oxidation have been attempted. The theory of their oxidation has not progressed beyond the stage at which it was discussed by Jost. 74

(1) Formaldehyde.

(a) Mechanism and Kinetics.

Snowden and Style²⁵¹ and Spence²⁵² postulated the intermediates CH₂O₂ and CH₂O₃ to explain their observations of the kinetics of formaldehyde oxidation. Bone and Gardner¹⁰⁶ measured the oxidation rate and found no evidence of an induction period.

(b) Thermal Decomposition.

The thermal decomposition has been studied by Patat and Sachsse²⁵³ using para hydrogen as a test for free radicals. Rollefson and Faull²⁵⁴ investigated the effect of iodine.

(c) Photochemistry.

Photochemical investigations of formaldehyde decomposition have been made by Gorin²⁵⁵. The photocxidation has been studied by Carruthers and Norrish²⁵⁶ who obtained about 50% conversion of formaldehyde to formic acid.

(2) Acetaldehyde.

More extensive kinetic studies have been made of acetaldehyde than of any other oxygen containing hydrocarbon. Unfortunately, most of these studies have dealt with the photo or thermo decomposition and, consequently, give only indications of the manner in which the oxidation proceeds. There is some evidence to support the view that the reaction chain involves the two radicals: CH₃CO- and CH₃CO-OO- (Bodenstein²⁵⁷). Aivazov²⁵⁸ in a careful study of the oxidation and the effect of peracetic acid on the kinetics, (peroxides were determined by analysis and polarographic means), concluded that his data were in accord with the peroxide theory of oxidation.

(a) Ignition and Induction Period.

Aivazov²⁵⁹ has studied the cold and hot flames and determined the temperature dependence of the induction periods. Baron²⁶⁰ studied the effect of pressure on ignition temperature. Keyer and Neimann²⁶¹ investigated the variation of induction period with composition.

(b) Mechanism and Experimental Kinetics.

Newitt 262 , 263 in an extensive study of the oxidation determined the products formed at various degrees of reaction as well as the dependence of ignition on temperature and pressure. In the analysis two types of peroxides were distinguished.

(c) Studies of Mixtures and Additives.

Kane¹⁷⁰ showed that nitrogen peroxide catalyzed the ignition of acetaldehyde.

(d) Thermal Decomposition.

The thermal decomposition of acetaldehyde has been studied by Brenschede and Schumacher 264, Burton 265, 266, Fletcher 267, Leifer and Urey 268, who analyzed the products with a mass spectrograph, Letort 269, 270, Patat and Sachsse 271 and Rollefson 254.

(e) Photolysis.

Grahame²⁷², Gorin²⁷³,²⁷⁴, Mitchell and Hinshelwood²⁷⁵, Leighton²⁷⁶, who reviews (1938) the status of the knowledge of aldehyde and ketone photolysis. Carruthers and Norrish²⁵⁶ studied the photo-oxidation and showed that peroxides and biacetyl are formed.

(3) Propaldehyde.

The only extensive investigation of propaldehyde combustion is that of Newitt²⁶²,²⁶³, who showed that the boundary values for the upper slow combustion is given by the Semenov equation. Newitt and Townend²⁷⁷ have reviewed the combustion phenomena of the higher aldehydes.

(a) Thermal Decomposition.

The thermal decomposition has been studied by Patat and Sachsse²⁷¹ and Rollefson and Faull²⁵⁴.

(b) Photolysis.

May, Taylor and Burton²⁷⁸ have used the Paneth method for detection of free radicals from photolysis of propaldehyde. Mitchell and Hinshelwood²⁷⁵ have studied the NO inhibition and Leighton²⁷⁶ (1938) has reviewed the photochemical studies of aldehydes and ketones.

(4) Butaldehyde and Higher Aldehydes.

Newitt and Townend²⁷⁷ have reviewed the processes taking place during the autoignition. Briner and co-workers²⁷⁹⁻²⁸³ have investigated the oxidation of butaldehyde and benzaldehyde by mixtures of oxygen and ozone. Chain lengths and inhibitor effects have also been studied. Payne and Lemon²⁸⁴ have studied the mechanism of aldehyde oxidation by H₂O₂. Leighton²⁸⁵ has investigated the photolysis of butaldehyde and isobutaldehyde.

G. Oxidation of Ketones.

Fahlbusch^{217a} has reviewed work prior to 1942 on the oxidation, and thermal and photo decomposition of ketones. No further work has been done on the direct oxidation.

(1) Photo-oxidation.

Rice and Schildknecht²⁸⁶ showed the products from the photo-oxidation of acetone to be principally acetic acid and formaldehyde. Small amounts of peroxides were formed. Fugassi²⁸⁷ found that the photo-oxidation of acetone produced a blue fluorescence, which changed to green when the oxygen was all consumed. This provided a test for traces of oxygen.

(2) Thermal Decomposition.

Gantz and Walters²⁸⁸, Gantz²⁸⁹, Smith and Hinshelwood²⁹⁰, Davoud and Hinshelwood²⁹¹, Steacie and Alexander²⁹² have studied the thermal decomposition of acetone under various conditions.

(3) Photolysis.

The photolysis of acetone has been investigated by Feldman, Burton, Ricci and Davis²⁹³, Gorin²⁵⁵,274, Spence²⁹⁴ and Glazebrook and Psarson²⁹⁵. Gorin²⁵⁵,274 has studied also methyl ethyl ketone and Glazebrook and Psarson²⁹⁵,296 have determined the relative amounts of radicals formed from MeEtCO, MePrCO, Me(iso-Pr)CO, MeBuCO, Pr₂CO, (iso-Pr)₂CO, (tert-Bu)₂CO and (sec-Bu)₂CO.

H. Combustion of Formic Acid.

Bone and Gardner 106 showed that only CO, CO2, H2 and H2O are formed in appreciable amounts from the combustion of formic acid. Patat and Sachsse 253 studied the thermal decomposition in the presence of para hydrogen and concluded that no radicals were present in the decomposing gas.

I. Oxidation of Ethers.

(1) Methyl Ether.

Ermolova and Neiman²⁹⁷ have studied the reaction kinetics and induction periods for dimethyl ether and found good agreement with the predictions of the Semenov theory. Addition of diethyl peroxide decreases the induction period. Pannetier and Laffitte²⁹⁸, determined the inflammability limits of mixtures of methyl ether with air and oxygen using a spark. The effects of surface and nitrogen addition were also investigated.

(a) Thermal Decomposition.

The thermal decomposition has been studied by Thompson and Meissner 300, Stavely 301, and Leifer and Urey 268.

(2) Diethyl Ether.

Ignition phenomena and the kinetics of propagation of cool and hot flames have been investigated by Baron²⁶⁰, Ermakova³⁰², Gibyanskii³⁰³, and Townend and co-workers³⁰⁴⁻³⁰⁶. Kane and Pandit³⁰⁷ by study of the sensitizing action of nitrogen dioxide on low temperature ignition found evidence that acetaldehyde is primarily involved in the formation of cool flames.

(a) Spectroscopic Observations.

Kondrat'ev³⁰⁸ has pointed out that bands found by Emeleus in diethyl ether flames (C.A. <u>27</u>, 2381) appear in the fluorescence spectrum of formaldehyde. This is evidence that the cold flame of diethyl ether contains excited formaldehyde molecules. Hsieh and Townend³⁰⁹ have studied the green flames produced in ether oxidation and showed that they may be ascribed to C₂.

(b) Thermal Decomposition.

The thermal decomposition of diethyl ether has been studied by Patat³¹⁰, Hobbs³¹¹ and Fletcher³¹².

(c) Electrolytic Decomposition.

Pearson³¹³ has studied reactions of the radicals produced by electrolysis of ether in solution.

(3) Diisopropyl Ether.

Below 193a studied the ignition phenomena of disopropyl ether and obtained an integral equation expressing the dependence of the induction period on the pressure and temperature.

(4) Dioxane.

Küchler and Lambert³¹⁴ have studied the thermal decomposition of dioxane in the temperature range 723 - 808° K. at pressures from 30 to 80mm.

J. Oxidation of Alcohols.

The combustion of methyl alcohol has been investigated by Bone and Gardner 106 who showed that it was more resistant to oxidation than formaldehyde. Jorissen, Van Selms and Kreulen 315 showed that oxidation of methyl and ethyl alcohols occurs with simultaneous decomposition. Geib 316 studied the flame of CH30D and showed that OD bands were not emitted.

K. Peroxide Formation and Decomposition.

Evidence has accumulated during the past two decades which indicates that peroxides play an important part in the oxidation of almost all organic compounds. (See, for example, Von Elbe's scheme for propane oxidation page 18). Since it is also known that stable peroxides act as prodetonants in internal combustion engines, a considerable stimulus has been given to the study of their mode of formation and decomposition and to the development of kinetic theories in which they play an important part. It is likely that the phenomena of the induction period and of cool and hot flames can be explained in terms of an initial accumulation of peroxides followed by branching chain reactions when the peroxide concentration reaches a critical value. At high temperatures, intermediate formation of peroxides may not occur.

(1) Studies and Theories of Peroxide Formation.

Bakh³¹⁷, who was the first to propose the peroxide theory of oxidation, has reviewed its status as of 1941. Medvedev³¹⁸,³¹⁹ has shown that some features of hydrocarbon oxidation can be explained in terms of the superposition of two chain reactions, one initiated by thermal activation of the hydrocarbon molecules, the second by the decomposition of the intermediate peroxides. Substantiation of the theory was found in experiments with tetralin in which the peroxide intermediates could be isolated and studied separately. Neiman¹⁸² has discussed the role of peroxides in the formation of hydrocarbon flames and Dumanois³²⁰, Oosterhoff³²¹ and Sokelik³²² have proposed explanations of the behavior of

internal combustion engines based on peroxide formation in the compressed fuel air mixture.

(2) Peroxide Decomposition.

Harris and Egerton³²³⁻³²⁷ have studied the decomposition of ethyl hydroperoxide, propyl hydroperoxide and diethyl peroxide. Neiman and Tutakin³²⁸ have investigated the kinetics of diethyl peroxide decomposition; Ivanov, Savinova and Mikhailova³²⁹ investigated the decomposition of tetralin, its hydroperoxide, the hydroxymethyl derivative and hydroxymethyl derivative of tetrahydronaphthyl peroxide. Walker and Wild³³⁰ studied the thermal and photochemical decomposition of acetyl peroxide.

L. Oxidation and Decomposition of Miscellaneous Compounds.

The work in this section is too special and heterogeneous to make a detailed summary worthwhile. Pertinent references are therefore listed without comment.

(a) Ammonia.

Bodenstein³³¹, Tokarev and Nekrasov³³², Verbrugh³³³, Atroschenko and Sedasheva³³⁴, and Frejacques³³⁵.

(b) Butyl Amine.

Beachell and Taylor336.

(c) Carbon Disulfide and Carbonyl Sulfide.

Griffith and Hill337, Kondratiev and co-workers 338-342, (extensive spectroscopic studies of intermediates in CS₂ flames), Nalbandjan 343, Pavlov 344, 345, Semenov and Voronkov 346, 347.

(d) Chlorine - Hydrogen.

Bodenstein³⁴⁸ and Bodenstein and Launer³⁴⁹.

(e) Chlorine Monoxide Decomposition.

Bodenstein and Szabo350.

(f) Diacetyl Reactions.

Rice and Walters 351.

- (g) Diethyl Acetal (Inflammation)

 Dugleux and Laffitte³⁵².
- (h) Ethylene Oxide (Free Radicals from)
 Fletcher and Rollefson 353.
- (i) Hydrazine
 Bamford³⁵⁴, Bamford and Bamford³⁵⁵.
- (j) Methyl Amine.

 Travers and Hawkes 356, Emeleus and Jolley 357.
- (k) Methyl Iodide.

 Blake and Iredale³⁵⁸, and Vaidya³⁵⁹ (both studies of flame spectra).
- (1) Nethyl Isocyanate.

 Bamford and Bamford³⁶⁰.
- (m) Nitrogen Oxides.

 Lemon³⁶¹, Lowry³⁶², Stoddart³⁶³, Murzin³⁶⁴, Lewis and Hinshelwood³⁶⁵, Furman³⁶⁶, 367, Briner³⁶⁸.
- (n) Nitrates and Nitrites.

 Appin, Todes and Khariton³⁶⁹, Carter and Travers³⁷⁰, Taylor and Vesselovsky³⁷¹, Thompson and Dainton³⁷², Steacie and Kata³⁷³, Steacie and Shaw³⁷⁴, Purkis³⁷⁵.
- (o) Nitrosyl Chloride.

 Natanson³⁷⁶, Krauss and Saracini³⁷⁷.
- (p) Silanes.

 Shantarovich³⁷⁸, Emeleus and Welch³⁷⁹.

(q) Sulfur Compounds.

Yakovley and Shantarovich³⁸⁰, Schenk and Jablonowski³⁸¹, Emanuel³⁸², 383, 384, 385, Emanuel, Pavlov, Semenov³⁸⁶, Kondrateva and Kondratev³⁸⁷, 388, Brodovich³⁸⁹.

(r) Sodium and Organic Halides.

Allen and Bawn 390.

M. Theory of Chemical Kinetics.

In this section a short survey is made of the more important developments in the kinetic theory of the processes occurring in chemical transformations.

Akulov391-394 has extended the theory of branching chains and studied the application of the theory to the determination of induction periods. etc. He has also developed equations relating the effect of a negative catalyst (e.g. surface) to the volume of the reaction space. Dijksman395,396 has investigated the explosion limits for spark ignition of mixtures which pass continuously into the limits for high temperature inflammation. Evans 397 derives Kassel's formula for the rate of an unmolecular reaction from transition state theory. Von Elbe³⁹⁸ derives an expression for the steady state rate of a chain reaction in which there are varying efficiencies of chain breaking at the walls. Frank-Kamenestskii 399-405 has published several important papers on the theory of thermal reactions and has discussed the mechanism of two-stage inflammation and periodic processes in oxidation reactions. Gurney406 derives a theory for reaction chains where intermediate particles react with members of preliminary and following steps. Geib⁴⁰⁷ has studied the relation of molecular structure to reaction mechanism. Hulburt⁴⁰⁸ derives equations for reaction rates in reacting flowing systems. Jost⁴⁰⁹ and Landau⁴¹⁰ discuss the theory of thermal explosions. Weixner⁴¹¹ has discussed the "thermodynamics" of irreversible processes. Prettre412 discusses wall effects in chain reactions. O. K. Rice413 has applied the Frank-Kamenetskii theory to explosions of azomethane, ethyl azide and methyl nitrate. The evaluation of specific rate constants in chain reactions is the subject of a review article by Rollefson414. Szczeniowski415 has derived a generalized combustion equation taking into account dissociation at high temperatures. Stupochenko416 discusses the possibility of accumulation of molecules of a certain type around an active center and its effect on the kinetics of reaction. Semenov417-419, in an early paper (1936) gives a review of his theory. Two later papers discuss methods of determining concentration of intermediates and the effects of diffusion of chain centers to the vessel wall. Todes and co-workers420-424 have presented several papers on the theory of thermal explosions.

The theory and mechanism of combustion in internal combustion engines has been the subject of articles by Blume⁴²⁵, Broersma⁴²⁶, Boyd⁴²⁷, 428, Boerlage and Broeze⁴²⁹, 430, Dreyhaupt⁴³¹, Evans⁴³², Isogai⁴³³, Jost⁴³⁴, Jost and Muffling⁴³⁵, Kling⁴³⁶, Kneule⁴³⁷, Meurer⁴³⁸, Mock⁴³⁹, Newitt⁴⁴⁰, E. Schmidt and Muhlner⁴⁴¹, F.A.F. Schmidt⁴⁴², 443, Serruys⁴⁴⁴, 445, Zeise⁴⁴⁶, 447 and Zinner⁴⁴⁸.

Studies of various experimental aspects of internal combustion have been made by Ernst449, Funck450, Herele451, Laure452, Lichtenberger and Seeber453, Lonn454, Rassweiler, Withrow and Cornelius455, Rothrock, Spencer and Miller,456 Scheuermeyer and Steigerwald457, Shoemaker and Gadebusch458, Sokolik and Yantovskii459, Spencer460, Starkman461, Wolfer462, Watts and Lloyd-Evans463 and Widmaier464.

The role of free radicals in chemical reactions has been examined by Aten465, Groth466, Mandala467, Pearson and Purcell468, Rice and Teller469, Rice, Walters and Ruoff470, Staveley and Hinshelwood471, Smith472, Ubbelohde473 and Waters474.

General reviews of combustion kinetics and phenomena have been published by Eucken475, Fiock476,477, Jost478, Lewis479, Prettre480, Stevels481,482, Steacie483, Sokolik484, Sachsse485, Thiemann486 and Wittig487. Berger488 lists data on physical properties and oxidation phenomena for over 400 compounds. Vaidya489 has reviewed the evidence for various intermediates which has been obtained from spectroscopic studies of the processes in internal combustion engines. Kondrat'ev490,491 and Czerlinsky and Seibt492 have have published similar reviews.

N. Studies of Physical Aspects of Combustion.

A large number of investigations have been made of phenomena, such as detonation rates, which are intimately related to combustion mechanism, but for which the physical and thermodynamic properties or state of the reactants are of more direct importance than the detailed chemical mechanism in their quantitative treatment. References to these reports are listed below under appropriate headings.

(1) Studies of Physical Aspects of Ignition.

Guest 493, Landau 494, Linnett, Raynor and Frost 495, Jorissen et al 496, Mole 497, Paterson 498, 499, Schade 500, Semenov 501, Silver 502, Vaillard 503, 504, Zel'dovich 505.

(2) Flame Propagation.

Coward and Payman 506, Coward, Hartwell and Georgeson 507, Dicent

and Shchelkin⁵C8, Denues⁵⁰⁹, Damkohler⁵¹⁰, 554, Flock and co-workers⁵¹¹, 512, 513, Jost and Muffling⁵¹⁴, Khitrin⁵¹⁵, Kolesnikova⁵¹⁶, Koledtsev⁵¹⁷, Lewis and Von Elbe¹⁸, 519, Mache⁵²⁰, Manson⁵²¹, Malinovskii⁵²², Smith⁵²³, Townend and Maccormac⁵², Van de Poll⁵²⁵, Zelddovich and Semenov⁵²⁶.

(3) Detonation.

Becker 527, Broersma 528, Jost 529, Jost and Muffling 530, Laffitte 531, Manson 532, Pfriem 533, Reingold 534, Shtsholkin 535, Tokarev and Nekrasov 536, Thomas 537, Veron 538, 539, Zel'dovich 40, 541, 542, Zouckermann and Heyberger 543.

(4) Theory and Properties of Burner Flames.

Behrens 544, Garside, Forsyth and Townend 545, Khitrin 546, Lewis and Von Elbe 547, Von Elbe and Mentser 548, Vasiles co 549, Wolfhard 550.

(5) Diffusion Effects in Shock Waves.

Cowling 551.

(6) Turbulence and Mixing.

Dreyhaupt 552,553, Damkohler 554, Shvab 555, Shchelkin 556.

(7) Latent Energy in Flames.

David and co-workers557-570, Leah571, Lewis and Von Elbe572, Zeise573.

- (8) Flame Temperature Measurements.
 - (a) Discussions of Errors and Reviews.

Bosanquet 574, Eggert 575, Von Elbe 576, Fishenden and Saunders 577, Hase 578, Matthews 579, Meissner 580, Pirani 581, Ribaud and co-workers 582,583, Richardson (1945) 584, Schroder 585, Swallow 586 and Tewes 587.

- (b) Flame temperatures from the Emission Spectrum.

 Brinkman⁵⁸⁸, Coheur and Coheur⁵⁸⁹, Graff⁵⁹⁰, Knauss⁵⁹¹.
- (c) Measurement by Thermometry.

 Kobayashi⁵⁹², Larsen et al⁵⁹³, Schack⁵⁹⁴, Severinghaus⁵⁹⁵, Swart⁵⁹⁶, Thring⁵⁹⁷, Zhukovskii⁵⁹⁸.

- (d) Temperatures by the Na-line Reversal Method.

 David⁵⁹⁹, Van de Poll et al⁶⁰⁰, Rosenthal⁶⁰¹, Yosida⁶⁰².
- (e) Two Color Pyrometry.

 Graff603, Naeser604, Uyehara et al605.
- (f) By pressure rise in closed bomb.

 Leah 606,607.

O. Thermodynamic Studies.

(1) Experimental Measurements.

Mathews and Hurd⁶⁰⁸ have determined the thermodynamic properties of methane. Rossini and Knowlton⁶⁰⁹, 610 give data on the heats of combustion of the normal alkenes-1. Wartenberg611 determined the equilibrium constant for acetylene-hydrogen and graphite at 1750°C. Coops et al⁶¹² have measured the heats of combustion of a number of olefinic and phenul substituted methanes and ethanes. Jessup⁶¹³ has determined the heats of combustion of the liquid paraffin hydrocarbons from hexane to decane. Pitzer⁵¹⁴ discusses methods of calculating free energies and heat contents of gaseous hydrocarbons and gives tables of values for the paraffins through heptane and for the simpler unsaturated hydrocarbons, Zeise⁶¹⁵, 617 presents data on the thermodynamic functions of water, CO₂ and of some additional molecules and radic-1s important in combustion. Burke and Hunt⁶¹⁸ have determined the neat of combustion of acetone.

(2) Calculation of Thermodynamic Quantities.

Benedict⁶¹⁹ has derived empirical equations for the thermodynamic properties of light hydrocarbons and their mixtures. Hottel and Eberhardt⁶²⁰ show how the use of Mollier diagrams simplifies combustion calculations. Pitzer⁶²¹ gives tables useful for the calculation of thermodynamic functions of molecules having restricted internal rotations. Rossin and Fehling⁶²² discuss the use of I-T diagrams in combustion calculations. Von Stein⁶²³ discusses methods of calculating dissociation equilibria. Walker⁶²⁴,⁶²⁵ derives expressions for the temperature, pressure and specific volume changes of a dissociating gas. Wiebe⁶²⁶ gives Mollier diagrams calculated according to Hottel and Eberhardt for octane-air and octane-water-air mixtures. Withrow and Cornelius⁶²⁷ discuss the use of thermodynamic charts in the analysis of flame picture and

pressure data. Zeise⁶²⁸ discusses the thermodynamic calculation of combustion temperatures and reactions in gas mixtures with precise consideration of all possible cracking phenomena.

P. Rocket Propulsion Chemicals.

Only a few unclassified reports on this subject have significance. Kuhn et al 629 summarize the chemical combinations used for jet propulsion in Germany. Monofuels included 65-85% methyl nitrate in methanol, ammonium nitrate plus ammonia, nitrous oxide plus ammonia and tetranitromethane plus 8-hydroxyquinoline in 80 to 85% H₂O₂. Bifuels were made up of an oxidizing agent and a fuel. Oxidizing agents considered were: 98 - 100% nitric acid, 98-100% nitric acid plus 5 - 10% strong sulfuric acid, liquid oxygen, 80-85% hydrogen peroxide with or without calcium permanganate, and ammonium nitrate. The fuels considered were: Methanol, ethanol, hydrazine hydrate, hydrazine hydrate plus methanol, 57% m-xylidine plus 47% triethylamine, 8-hydroxyquinoline, furfuryl alcohol, vinyl ethyl ether, gasoline, diesel oil, Optol (a hydrogenated lignite tar fraction, Ergol (a mixture of Optol, tetrahydrofurane, furfuryl alcohol and aniline). Bellinger et al630 report on propellant systems consisting of (1) concentrated hydrogen peroxide plus permangan e, (2) red fuming nitric acid and anil_ne, and (3) mononitromethane plus catalyst. Lawrence 631 has discussed engineering aspects of the operation of an ethyl alcohol - oxygen propulsion unit.

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